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Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan

Financing arrangements for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. During its consideration of the note by the Secretary-General on the financing arrangements for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (A/72/792), the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 19 April 2018.

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 71/308 on the financing of UNMISS, appropriated the amount of $1,071,000,000 for the maintenance of the Mission, for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018. The Secretary-General indicates in paragraphs 2 and 3 of his note that a number of cost parameters have changed since the issuance of the budget for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (A/71/841) and the adoption of the aforementioned resolution. The Secretary-General further indicates that, in response to the outbreak of violence in Juba in July 2016, the Security Council adopted resolution 2304 (2016), in which it authorized a 4,000-strong regional protection force mandated to provide a secure environment in and around Juba. The Secretary-General also states that, for military contingents, the approved resources for the 2017/18 period provided for 12,334 contingent personnel, and that, as at 28 February 2018, 13,108 military contingent personnel have been deployed to the Mission, which includes 1,068 members of the regional protection force. In addition, with the anticipated arrival of contingents, both for the regional protection force and to undertake other mandated responsibilities, during the last four months of the 2017/18 period, UNMISS projects the deployment of an average of 13,188 military contingent personnel for the period, which would exceed the funded average strength of 12,334 military contingent personnel by 854 personnel. As a result, there are additional requirements of $27.2 million for military contingents.

3. In paragraphs 4 and 5 of his note, the Secretary-General indicates that, for civilian personnel, the changes that have had a significant impact on the original cost estimates include: (a) higher actual common staff costs of 104.2 per cent on average,

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in comparison with the budgeted rate of 84.8 per cent in Juba and 73.9 per cent in Entebbe; (b) lower actual vacancy rates for international staff, National Professional Officers and national General Service staff, including positions funded under general temporary assistance, compared to those in the approved resources for the 2017/18 period; (c) a higher average actual post adjustment multiplier of 44.3, in comparison with 35.9 provided for in the approved resources for the 2017/18 period; and (d) revised salary scales for National Professional Officers and national General Service staff in South Sudan. The Secretary-General indicates that, as a result of those changes, there are additional requirements of $34.6 million for international staff, $28.6 million for national staff and $1.6 million for international and national staff funded under general temporary assistance. Under civilian staffing, the additional requirements amount to $64.8 million, which also includes increased projected requirements of $900,000 for United Nations Volunteers and $100,000 for Government-provided personnel. In addition, the Secretary-General indicates that the higher actual common staff costs are attributable mainly to increased entitlements, including dependency allowances and education grants for recently recruited and existing international staff, and that the lower actual vacancy rates for civilian personnel are attributable to the Mission filling its vacant posts, including with international staff from two peacekeeping missions, the United Nations Mission in Liberia, which formally ceased its operations in March 2018, and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, which completed its mandate on 30 June 2017. The Secretary-General also indicates that the post adjustment multiplier increased from 33.1 in July 2017 to 47.8 in February 2018.

4. The Secretary-General indicates that, during the 2017/18 period, UNMISS has made efforts to reprioritize resources in order to meet the unbudgeted operational requirements related to the aforementioned increase in military personnel and the related support required. The note by the Secretary-General provides details with respect to these additional requirements, which amount to $91,925,000, of which $27,167,900 pertain to military contingents and $64,757,100 to civilian personnel. It is expected that the Mission will be able to absorb from within its approved budget the partial amount of $26,767,900 of the total requirements. As UNMISS cannot meet the remaining costs from within its existing approved resources, the Secretary-General indicates that additional resources in the amount of $65,157,100 for military contingents and for civilian personnel are required for the period (A/72/792, para. 6).

5. The Advisory Committee was informed that, based on current projections, UNMISS expects to utilize 100 per cent of its approved budget for the 2017/18 financial period, not including the $65,157,100 in additional resource requirements. The Committee was also informed that, as at 19 March 2018, the cash reserves of the Mission amounted to $42,769,000, which is not sufficient to cover the three-month operating reserve in the amount of $207,099,000. **The Committee recalls that the General Assembly has repeatedly urged all Member States to fulfil their financial obligations, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations, on time, in full and without conditions (see General Assembly resolution 71/308, para. 3).**

6. The proposed actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNMISS for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 are indicated in paragraph 8 of the note by the Secretary-General (A/72/792).

7. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate the amount of $65,157,100, with assessment, for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, in addition to the amount of $1,071,000,000 already appropriated for the same period for the maintenance of the Mission under the terms of General Assembly resolution 71/308.**

8. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide detailed information on actual expenditures incurred in the context of the performance report of UNMISS for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.**